



» *THE LANTERN* «

ORLEANS COUNTY ADULT LEARNING SERVICES—*"LIGHTING THE WAY TO LEARNING"*

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Together, Leading Change: US Conference on Adult Literacy

Penny Nice, OCALS President



What a privilege it was to represent Orleans County Adult Learning Services at the 2013 U.S. Conference on Adult Literacy held October 31 - November 2, 2013 in Washington D.C. The Conference, organized by ProLiteracy, provided over 120 workshop opportunities covering such things as Advocacy, Collaboration and Community Linkages, English Language Learner and Immigration, Instruction, Professional Development and Training, Supporting Learner Transitions and Technology among others which collectively addressed the theme of the Conference: "Together, Leading Change."

At Thursday evening's Opening Session the keynote speaker was entrepreneur and former star quarterback of the Washington Redskins, Joe Theisman. Drawing from personal experience, he spoke on the Challenge of Change, addressing how individuals and organizations tackle change by keeping a positive mental outlook and committing to a vision that guides you to your goals.

At Friday's Student Recognition lunch, Dorothy "Doro" Bush Koch served as keynote speaker. Mrs. Koch shared experiences gained as co-chair of the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy and her efforts to promote family literacy efforts in her home state of Maryland.

During the luncheon several individuals and programs received recognition. One of the most touching stories was of the work of Nasrine Gross, the recipient of the Ann C. Michel Women in Literacy award. Nasrine founded The Roqia Center and in partnership with ProLiteracy has been offering an innovative literacy program for couples in some of Kabul, Afghanistan's poorest neighborhoods. She launched the project against the advice of many who saw the participation of women in this society too great an obstacle to overcome.

I was able to attend numerous workshops, including a pre-conference session presented by Todd Evans on Volunteer Recruitments and Retention. I was also able to glean new insights during workshops covering Career Pathways, Emerging Technologies in Adult Education and Preparing Workers for the 21st Century. Many of these insight were put right to use as we prepared our 2014 United Way Grant, particularly with developing a Workforce Literacy Initiative.

I want to thank OCALS for encouraging me to attend and in providing monetary assistance. It was a both an enlightening and inspiring event. It serves to affirm the work that we are currently doing and the vision we have for the future of OCALS in meeting the literacy needs in Orleans County.

OCALS NEWEST STAFF MEMBERS!

This past year has been one of tremendous growth for OCALS. Our important Family Program has developed rapidly, our partnerships with other service organizations in Orleans County are all going strong, and the work load for our volunteers has greatly increased. As a result of this exciting growth OCALS has hired three part-time contract staff members that we would like you to meet:

Terry Wilbert: Tutor Trainer



Terry holds multiple degrees from Albany University(formerly SUNY Albany) including BA, MA, and Ed.S. He has a Certificate of Advanced Study from SUNY Brockport, plus additional course work at College of St Rose, SUNY Cortland, and Cornell University. He has worked as a school counselor, Director of Guidance at Albion Central School, Director of GED Programs for the Urban League of Rochester, and a school administrator. Terry has served as a School Board member and has served on the local library Board; Orleans County Youth Board; Saugerties Environmental Commission; Town of Albion Planning Board and recently the Albion Recreation Commission. Terry has been involved in several different youth soccer programs and started the Girl's soccer program at Albion Central School. During the last 10 years he has been involved in teaching, supervising teaching, and tutoring of adult and young adult students preparing for the GED.

Terry has held several Tutor Trainer classes for OCALS; focusing on Resource Materials both online and in textbook form available in the Hoag Library. Terry also presented detailed Goal Setting, to help ensure successful tutoring and the best possible outcome for the students.

Diana Pathammavong: AmeriCorps



Hello, my name is Diana Pathammavong. I have been assisting OCALS through AmeriCorps. I've worked in the dental field for 30 years, currently in Dr. Thompson's office in Holley. This is my 10th year with Dr. Thompson. I can't imagine being anywhere else! I've also spent many years working with and sponsoring refugees displaced after the Vietnam War. I know the value of ESL tutoring and how important it has been in the lives of those fortunate enough to have been paired with a good tutor. It has been my pleasure to meet and become acquainted with many of OCALS members; your passion and dedication is evident. Thank you for allowing me to assist OCALS in increasing awareness of the services you provide. We will continue to attend local events and post on social media to further brand OCALS as an important agency in Orleans County. Thank you for improving the lives of people through the gift of education.

Jackie Keller: Administrative Assistant



Jackie is a graduate of SUNY Brockport with a Bachelor's of Science degree in English, and initial teaching certifications for English grades 5-12 and special education grades 7-12. Her passion for literacy is what attracted her to OCALS and currently she serves as OCALS Administrative Assistant. Her main goals are to help alleviate the general work load from the Board of Directors so they can better serve the tutors and the students, and to get the word of OCALS spread to the public for those who can benefit from it. She also serves as nanny to two children and secretary at a children's gymnastics facility. When she is not working she enjoys spending time with her husband, a NYS Corrections Officer, and their 6 year old daughter, Amelia, as well as reading and leisure writing.



CHECK OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR OCALS UPDATES AND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS.

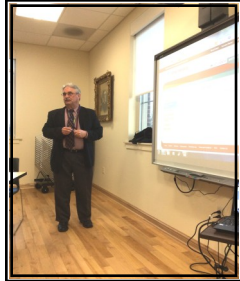
PLEASE LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

Tutor Trainer Class

Worldlife
Institute



Hoag Library
Goal Setting



**Tutor Appreciation
Wine and Cheese Party**



*A Very Sincere Thank You to all
of the volunteers who have
dedicated so much time and
talent to OCALS !*

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARD:

May Quarterly Board Meeting, May 8, 2014

- **Family Literacy Program** - Tutoring began at Newfane ABCD with 11 children. New tutors are needed for Holley. Students from ABCD Holley who participated in kindergarten screening stood out and impressed the teachers.
- **Program Committee**—OCALS is still considering partnering with “Hands for Hope”, an 8 week course that teaches successful employment strategies.
- Mary Lee and Jackie working on Powerpoint presentation for speaking opportunities.
- **Tutor Training**—Terry Wilbert will be contacting local school districts to discuss our program.
- **Community Relations**—Informational booths to be set up at Medina Memorial Day Parade, Holley June Fest and Albion Strawberry Festival. Brochures and balloons will be handed out. Free theme baskets will be raffled off at each event.
- **Pathstone Mission**—Pathstone provides farm workers with training, skills upgrades, and employment assistance. They also refer potential students to OCALS who might be in need of our services.
- **Annual Dinner Meeting—September 11, 2014—6: 00 pm** Millville United Methodist Fellowship Hall, Millville, NY. **Bring a potluck dish—short business meeting will be held afterwards, with awards to follow.**



 **Family Literacy News from Pam Foss** 



Pam reports that Family Literacy has been busy helping preschoolers get ready for kindergarten. OCALS tutors provide one-to-one tutoring to 15 preschool children in ABCD at Holley. These students are preparing for kindergarten in the fall and tutors Monica Beck, Joe Gehl, and Penny Nice are working hard to help them learn their letters, write their names, and fall in love with books. During the month of March we focused on Dr. Seuss and the students became really good at rhyming.

Starting in May OCALS will be providing tutoring to more preschool students in ABCD at Newfane. We are excited for this program to start. Pam is working with ABCD Newfane’s Director, Lana Young, and Educational Coordinator, Donna Gerhardt, to get this program up and running. This is an exciting time for Family Literacy in Orleans County.



Orleans County Adult Learning Services

134 S. Main Street

Albion, NY 14411

Joseph Epstein once said,

“We do not choose to be born. We do not choose our parents, or the country of our birth. We do not, most of us, choose to die; nor do we choose the time and conditions of our death. But within this realm of choicelessness,

we do choose how we live.”

Thank you to all who have chosen to better the life of others through the gift of reading and education!

A funded agency of:



United Way of Orleans Co.



Accredited member of

ProLiteracy

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT OUR FACE BOOK PAGE AT WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/OCALS1 AND OUR WESITE AT WWW.OCALSFAMILYLITERACY.COM

OCALS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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